MAY 2 6 2006

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte YOSHIHITO ASAO, HIROFUMI WATANABE, KATSUMI ADACHI, SHIROU IWATANI, KYOJI MATSUMURA and TUNEJI GODA

Application 09/813,348

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on May 3, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) were filed March 28, 2003 and November 14, 2003. It is not apparent from the record that the examiner considered the IDSs, nor notified applicants of why his submission did not meet the criteria set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Accordingly, it is

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ORDERED that the application is being electronically returned to the Examiner for such consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements, and for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

3y: ______

Deputy Chief Appeal Administrator

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GJH

cc: SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213